

Thomas Paine



Thomas Paine was a writer from England whose words changed peoples' minds and made them feel hopeful.

1. Thomas Paine was born in England in 1737. He grew up in a small town. His family did not have much money, so he left school as a child to work
2. His early jobs did not go well. He tried making clothes, collecting taxes, and other work. He was not very good at those jobs and did not have much luck in England.
3. He wrote essays for a group of people called *The Society of Arts* who thought the king was not being fair to his subjects.
4. Benjamin Franklin helped him move to America. Paine met Franklin in London. Franklin wrote a letter to help him, and Paine sailed to Philadelphia in 1774.
5. Paine's best tool was writing. He did not become famous as a soldier. He became famous because he could explain big ideas in words that regular people could understand.
6. In 1776 he wrote a little book called *Common Sense*. In it, he said the American colonies should stop being ruled by the king of England and become their own country.
7. *Common Sense* sold a huge number of copies. Lots of people bought it. Other people read it out loud in taverns and on the street so even people who could not read could hear the ideas.
8. The book helped Americans decide to become free. Before *Common Sense*, many people still wanted to stay connected to Britain. Paine's words helped them see that independence was a better idea.
9. During the war he wrote more papers called *The American Crisis*. These writings cheered up soldiers and other Americans when the war was going badly.
10. His most famous sentence is: "*These are the times that try men's souls.*" That means hard times test how brave people really are.
11. Paine thought regular people should help run the country. He said a king should not be in charge just because he was born into a royal family. The people should choose their leaders.
12. He thought what he was saying in *Common Sense* was so important, he wanted everyone to be able to read his book so he did not accept any money. He wanted to help the American fight for freedom from the king.
13. He died in New York in 1809. People remember him as a Founding Father because his writing helped Americans choose to become an independent nation.

Most important thing to remember... Paine's little book, called *Common Sense* used plain language to convince many people that America should break away from the British king. Then he wrote another small book called *American Crisis* helped many people feel hopeful when the news was really scary.

